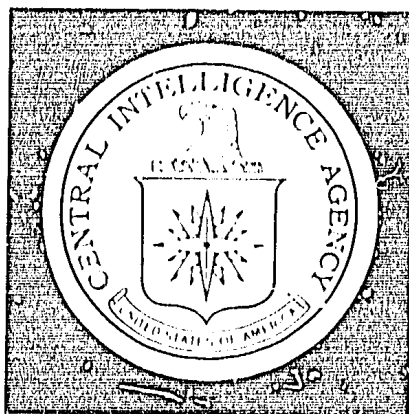


Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP85T00875R000800010037-9

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

Secret

No 545

7 October 1971

Secret

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SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA: South Vietnamese forces, aided by heavy air and artillery support, reportedly have inflicted severe enemy losses in lifting the siege of an artillery base just east of Krek in Cambodia.

The base had been under enemy attack and the major resupply road to it was closed for more than a week. The 174th Regiment of the Communist 5th Division, which was involved in the fighting, has now withdrawn. This South Vietnamese action against the enemy division that hurt them badly at Snuol last spring may help restore the morale and fighting spirit of the South Vietnamese, who fought well and without the assistance of US ground forces.

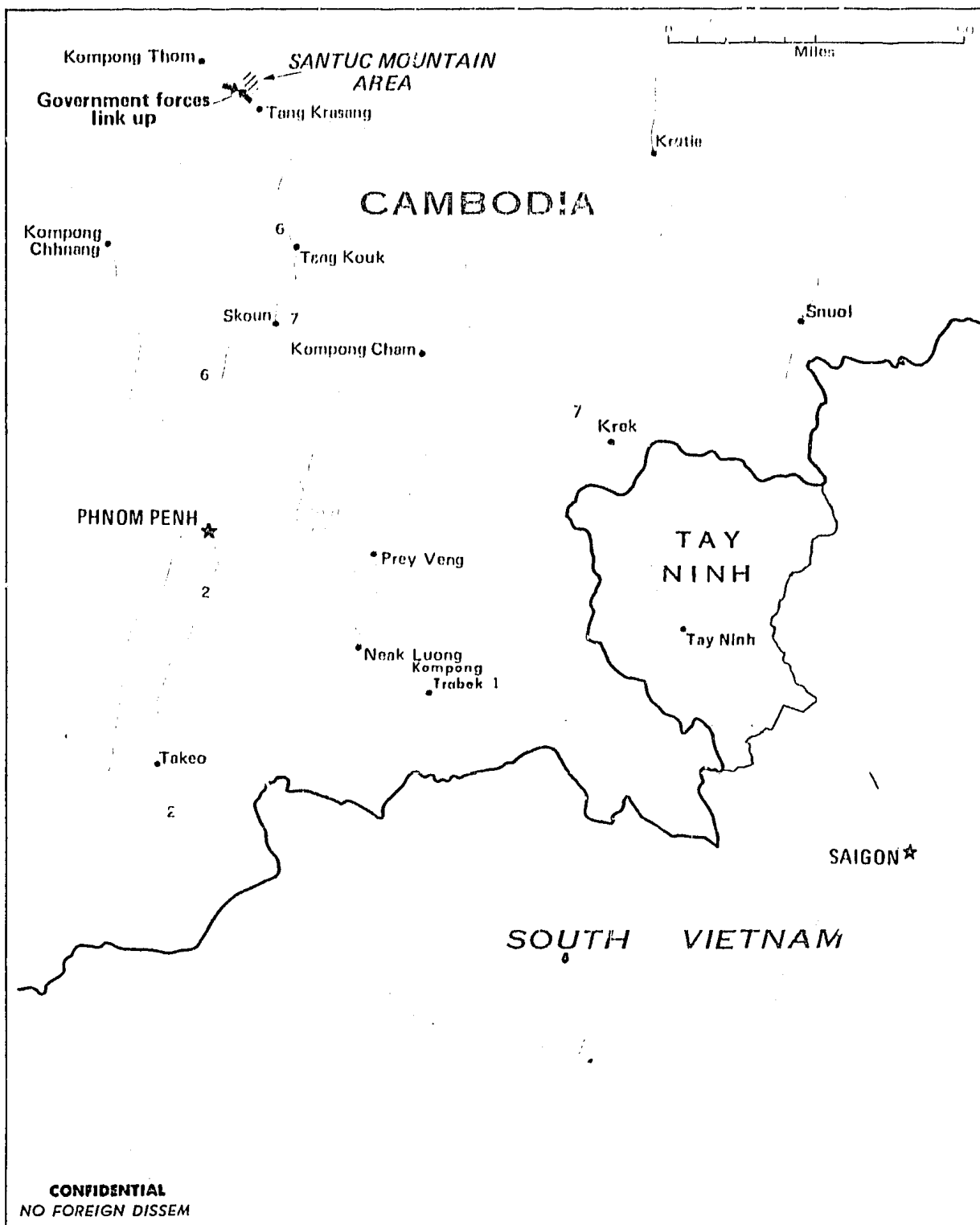
Nevertheless, the Communists still pose a threat in the border area. At least one infantry and one artillery regiment and a division headquarters remain near the Tay Ninh Province border. South Vietnamese artillery bases and field positions along Route 22 have been shelled almost daily since this latest round of enemy action began on 26 September. (SECRET)

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CAMBODIA: Government forces have finally reopened Route 6 to Kompong Thom town.

After heavy air strikes reportedly drove the Communists out of their high ground positions in the Santuc Mountain area north of Tang Krasang overlooking the highway, elements of the Chenla II task force linked up with units from the Kompong Thom garrison on 5 October. Cambodian casualties during the last stage of the operation were five killed and 51 wounded; Communist losses were estimated at 58 killed.

The enemy troops involved in the fighting may have been from a Vietnamese Communist unit--the "207th"--of regimental size. According to a recent Khmer Communist rallier from this unit, the headquarters of the 207th has been located in the Santuc area, which has served as the center for enemy military activity in eastern Kompong Thom Province. The rallier also stated that the 207th is responsible for operations along Route 6, north of Tang Kouk.

Government troops will next conduct sweep operations north and south of Santuc Mountain in order to consolidate their control over Route 6, and probably will also help make extensive bridge and road repairs to the highway. The Khmer Krom units that have been in the forefront of the Chenla II operation apparently will be sent back to Phnom Penh as soon as possible, however.

Although the Chenla II operation has encountered far less resistance than did the successful campaigns last May and June to reopen Route 4 and to drive main-force enemy elements out of the Tonle Toch area northeast of Phnom Penh, it has been far superior to those undertakings in terms of planning, coordination, and over-all support. More importantly, it has reflected the Cambodians' growing military confidence and a corresponding willingness to carry the war to the Communists.

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For their part, the Communists evidently were unwilling to expend the resources to prevent the reopening of Route 6, particularly because the Cambodians have shown little disposition to move off the road against important Communist bases to the east. With better weather approaching, the Communists are still in position to harass or cut the road at a time and place of their own choosing.
(SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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TURKEY: The Justice Party's announcement on Tuesday that it is withdrawing from the Erim government has raised the specter of a renewed political crisis.

A government spokesman has described the party's action as "impulsive." High-level meetings of the Justice Party are scheduled for today and tomorrow as the various factions try to unravel the situation and devise a strategy.

Prime Minister Erim told the press on 5 October that the government would decide by Friday what its next steps should be. If Erim decides to seek a vote of confidence and fails, he may resign. Erim has indicated in the past that he would resign if he lost the support of parliament. Should the Justice Party action lead to Erim's resignation, the military leaders might dissolve parliament and install a caretaker government, possibly with an appointed constituent assembly. Some high-level military officers no doubt favor more direct military control over the government, but at present there is no indication that a military take-over is imminent. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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TURKEY: Opium production next year could exceed the current crop despite regulations designed to limit output.

Implementation of a new licensing decree regulating opium production has been delayed because a decision has not been made on the amount of compensation to be offered farmers barred from further production. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the number of farmers applying for licenses may exceed 100,000 in 1972 compared with 90,000 in 1971 even though the provinces where poppy may legally be grown have been reduced from seven to four.

According to government sources, sales of opium gum by farmers to the government have reached 146 metric tons this year compared with 70 tons in 1970. Ankara feels that the larger sales reflect its more intensive collection effort supported by a higher government price for opium--up 58 percent over last year's price. Sales also were bolstered by extensive publicity given to new poppy growing regulations which will provide compensation, based on this year's sales to the government, to farmers barred from producing next year.


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INDONESIA-MALAYSIA: Djakarta and Kuala Lumpur reportedly have rejected plans for a multinational task force to dredge the Malacca Strait, the major shipping route between Europe and the Far East.

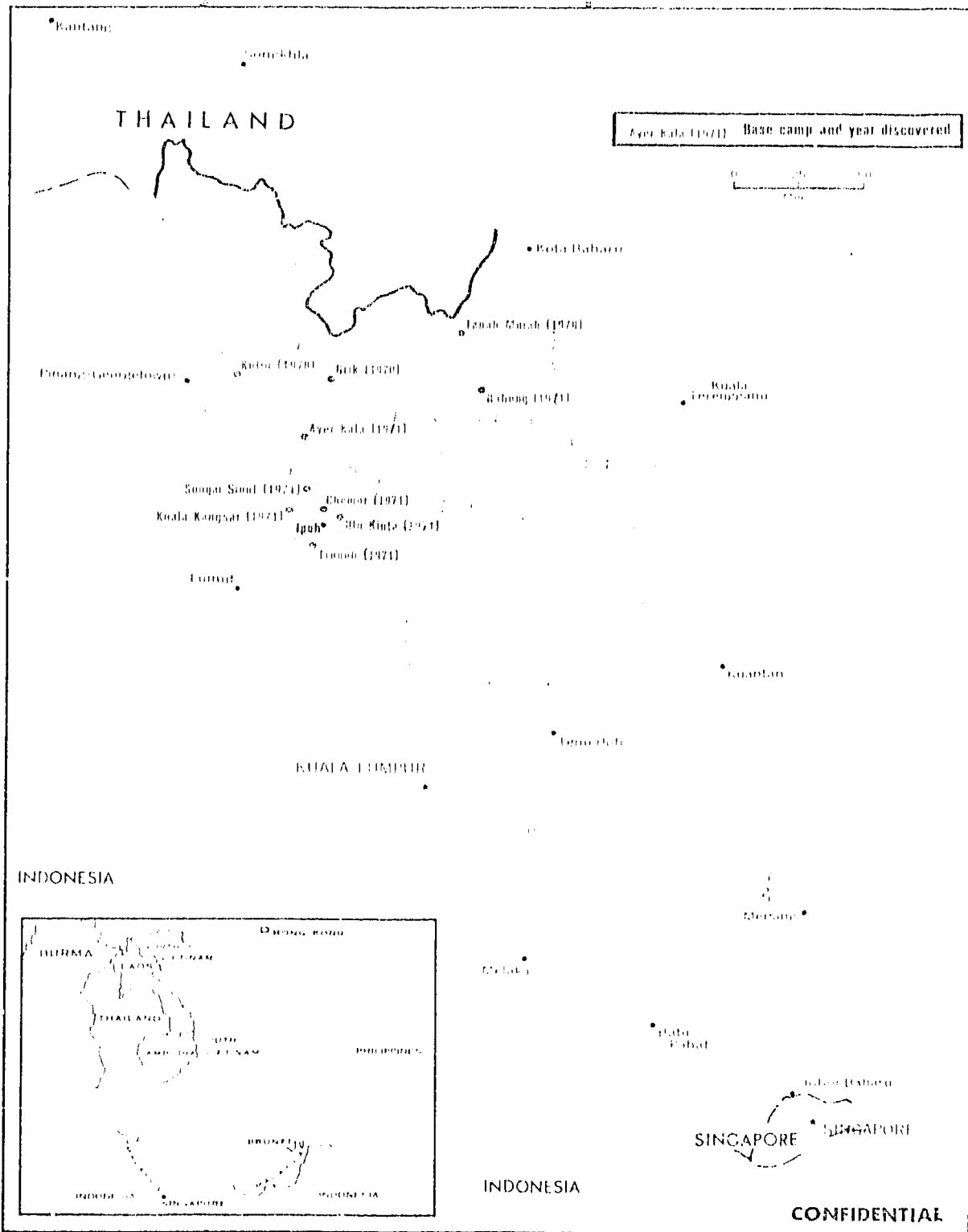


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Malaysia and Indonesia claim a 12-mile territorial limit, and since in places the strait is less than 24 miles wide, both countries are firmly opposed to the internationalization of the strait. The two powers are highly suspicious of any outside proposal that might prejudice their claims to control over traffic in the strait.

Presently only ships under 240,000 tons with maximum drafts of 65 feet can safely pass through the strait. Almost 90 percent of Japan's oil was shipped through the Malacca Strait last year, but increasing sedimentation combined with the trend toward larger ships may limit future use of this route without dredging. (CONFIDENTIAL)

West Malaysian Guerrilla Base Camps



MALAYSIA: The government's publication of a new white paper indicates its increasing concern over the potential threat posed by Communist guerrillas.

For almost a decade the insurgents confined their activities to the Thai side of the border, but in the past two years they have been moving into Malaysia. Small insurgent groups have set up base camps in some areas where guerrillas were firmly established during the 1948-1960 revolt. One was discovered on a hill overlooking a police training camp outside Ipoh.

Some 200 to 300 terrorists probably are currently inside Malaysia, with another 1,300 to 1,500 north of the border in Thailand. [REDACTED]

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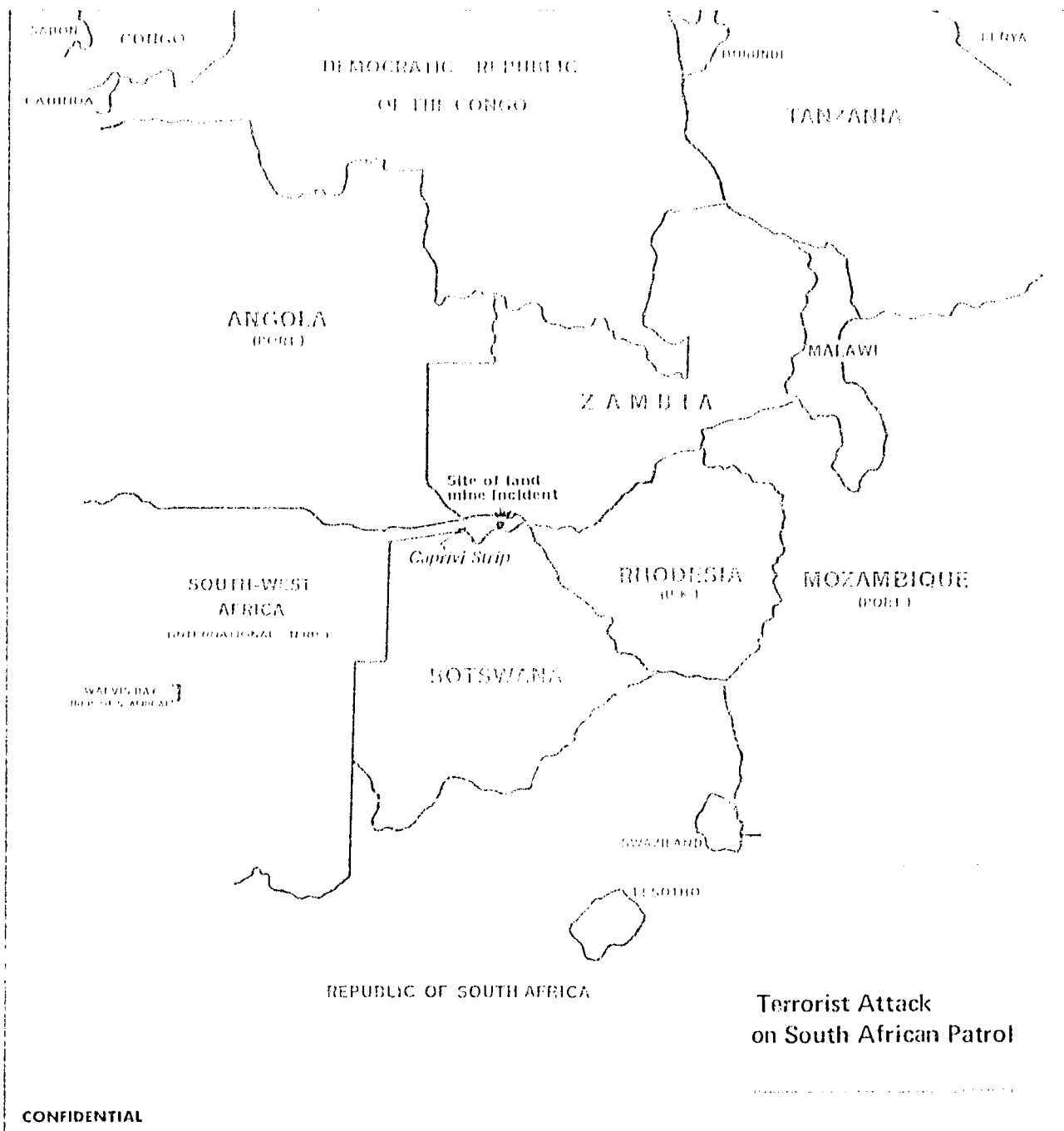
[REDACTED] the government does not know for certain how many of the rural Chinese population are aiding the terrorists, who themselves are predominately Chinese. A recent increase in the number of Chinese squatters illegally farming the jungle fringes may well provide the insurgents with an easily intimidated base of support.

The insurgents do not yet constitute a serious challenge, but the government fears that continued public complacency is facilitating terrorist expansion. Moreover, there is constant concern that the insurgents will be successful in proselyting among the Malay population. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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SOUTH-WEST AFRICA: Terrorist incidents earlier this week probably were intended by anti - South African dissidents to draw UN attention to their cause.

25X6 A land mine and a booby trap explosion on 4 and 5 October in the Caprivi Strip caused the death of one South African policeman and injured several others. Prime Minister Vorster initially told the US ambassador that a small police contingent pursued the terrorists. In a public announcement, Vorster added that he had previously warned of his intention to resort to hot pursuit into neighboring countries. Vorster has since [] informed the US ambassador that South African troops have not crossed into Zambia. Zambian President Kaunda has condemned Vorster's "threat to invade Zambia."

Terrorist incidents are not uncommon in South-West Africa. Two South African policemen were killed and seven injured by a land mine last May. At that time, representatives of the South-West African Peoples' Organization, an exile group with guerrilla forces in both Zambia and Tanzania, claimed credit for the act and for other similar incidents.

More attention has been focused on the area since the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice last June that South Africa's mandate over South-West Africa was not valid. The incidents this week probably were planned to coincide with the debate in the UN Security Council where black African countries already have called for South Africa's ouster from the territory. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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